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THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE.*



CRUSADERS' ARMOUR.

The Holy Land! Memories the most sacred, the most tender, and the most thrilling, cause the very name to call up before us a vista of the past, such as no other land possesses. As we muse upon the words, we hear the singer's harp and the prophet's lyre, and we catch echoes of the apostle's eloquence; there rise up memories of men and women whose stories are the world's best treasure; the forms of Abraham, of Samuel, of David, and of Isaiah, sweep by in majesty; and after them, lovelier and loftier than all, we see the sublime figure of that

One for whom they looked. For that land, and it alone, has felt the footsteps of Incarnate Deity.

What a history that land has seen of peace and of turmoil, of free-

dom and of bondage, of glory and of shame. Across it has the tide of conquest rolled in every age; its plains have been enriched by the blood of many a different race. How many hearts have loved that land! Patriotism in its most ardent forms has never equalled the devotion that Israel's children have felt for Israel's soil. When within its borders, they have loved it with an intensity that made each hill a shrine, and the thought of leaving it like the thought of death. When absent from it, in their repeated exiles, their hearts have gone out to its mountains and its valleys, its skies and its streams, with yearnings that could not be expressed. Wherever they have sojourned, it has still been to them their only home, and to-day, in every clime, a scattered nation loves it of all lands alone. They dream of the promised time when it shall be their own abode again, and, when their lives are closing, they journey thither with tottering limbs, to die, because they think the sleep of the grave is sweeter there.

* "The Children's Crusade, an Episode of the Thirteenth Century." By George Zabriskie Gray. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

The chief authority for the following narrative is Canon Gray's interesting volume, whose merit is indicated by the fact of its having reached its eleventh edition. Canon Gray gives a list of thirty old Latin chronicles, six of which were contemporaneous with the "The Children's Crusade," which he studied for its history. The following sketch is told, as far as possible, in the very words of Canon Gray's book.

F. E. W.